



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

January 6, 2014

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE ON THE RETURN OF THE 113TH CONGRESS

This memorandum is to provide an update on the return of Congress for the second session of the 113th Congress. The Senate reconvened on January 6, 2014 while the House will reconvene on January 7, 2014.

Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 Appropriations

The most urgent action that Congress must take is to finalize FFY 2014 appropriations because all Federal programs and operations currently are temporarily funded under a Continuing Resolution (CR), which expires on January 15, 2014. The recently enacted Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, which set an overall FFY 2014 discretionary spending cap of \$1.012 trillion, will facilitate the enactment of final FFY 2014 appropriations. The Senate and House previously marked up FFY 2014 appropriations bills using widely divergent spending caps, which resulted in none of the 12 individual FFY 2014 appropriations bills being enacted. It is expected that Congress will finalize FFY 2014 appropriations through a single omnibus appropriations bill and limit floor amendments to expedite the enactment of final FFY 2014 appropriations.

Other Time-Sensitive Legislative Issues

The other most pressing legislative issues for Congressional action of County interest are the reauthorization of funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs, both of which will otherwise expire on January 15, 2014. The legislative vehicle for reauthorizing SNAP is

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

**Please Conserve Paper – This Document and Copies are Two-Sided
Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only**

the Farm Bill, which also would reauthorize other nutrition and agricultural programs, and which is in Conference Committee. If Farm Bill and TANF extensions cannot be finalized soon, the FFY 2014 omnibus appropriations bill could be used as the vehicle for short-term extensions of both programs. It is expected that TANF ultimately will be extended through the end of a year. Neither house took any action on a multi-year TANF reauthorization bill last year, and, over the years, TANF frequently has been extended for short periods of time through appropriations bills.

Other major issues that Congress is expected to address early in 2014 include:

Emergency Unemployment Insurance (UI) Benefits: On January 6, 2014, Senate floor debate began on S. 1845 Reed (D-RI), a bill which would extend for three months emergency UI benefits that expired at the end of December 2013. Its expiration resulted in the loss of UI benefits for roughly 222,000 unemployed Californians, including nearly 54,000 in Los Angeles County, who were receiving up to 37 months of Federal-funded UI benefits after their 26 months of State-funded UI benefits expired. The extension of emergency UI benefits face an uphill battle in the House where Republicans question the need for a three-month extension and would want its estimated \$6.4 billion cost to be an offset to avoid increasing the Federal deficit.

Federal Debt Limit: It currently is projected that the Federal government will run out of borrowing authority by early March. Federal debt ceiling increase legislation is "must sign" legislation, which is required to avoid a Federal default.

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA): Senate and House-passed bills (S. 601 and H.R. 3080) to reauthorize Army Corps of Engineers projects and activities, are being negotiated in Conference Committee, which could complete action early this year. However, since 2000, a multi-year WRDA reauthorization bill has been enacted only once in 2007. Therefore, it would not be surprising if the completion of a final WRDA reauthorization bill were to be delayed.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:MT:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist